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INFO OCT-00 RDS-00 SSO-00 1030 R

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INFO AMEMBASSY PARTS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG CAPTION REMOVED BY S/S (EK) ON 3/1/93  
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU

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EXDIS, BEIJING PASS TO SHANGHAI

E.O. 12065: RDS 3/25/00 (HARMACOSTI, MICHAEL H.)

TAGS: POIP, CH, US —

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SUBJECT: PRC VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ZHANG JIQUAN VISITS U.S.

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REF: STATE 75718 (CORDIAL)

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2. (U) ITINERARY AND SCHEDULE: CHINESE VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ZHANG WENJUN (PORTFOLIO: DEPARTMENTS OF AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN AFFAIRS; INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS; EUROPEAN AFFAIRS) (RECENTLY REINVESTED) VISITED HONOLULU MARCH 13-14. WHERE HE RECEIVED A BRIEFING AT HEADQUARTERS, CINCPAC, AND CARRIED OUT DISCUSSIONS OF THE SITUATION IN THE CINCPAC COMMAND AREA WITH INTERESTED GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICERS OF THE COMMAND. WHILE IN HONOLULU HE WAS A GUEST OF THE CINCPAC ADMIRAL LONG. THE VISIT AND DISCUSSIONS WERE REMARKABLE FOR THE CORDIAL, FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THEY WERE CONDUCTED.

3. (U) ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON ON MARCH 15 (SATURDAY), ZHANG AND HIS PARTY (LI CHAOZHU, DEP-DIR AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN AFFAIRS; CHEN SONGLU, DIR, OFFICE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS; ZHANG WENPU, DEP-DIR, OFFICE OF U.S. AFFAIRS) WERE GREETED BY EA ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOK. ON SUNDAY, MARCH 16, HOLBROOK WAS HOST AT DINNER FOR ZHANG AND JI (OTHERS: P. TANOFF, R. BARTHOLOMEW). WHILE EA/PRCM DIRECTOR FREEMAN HOSTED CHEN, ZHANG AND NEA/INS DIRECTOR SCHAFER, NEA/PAB DIRECTOR PECK, AS WELL AS CHINESE EMBASSY AND EA/PRCM COLLEAGUES.

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4. (U) TALKS BEGAN MONDAY, MARCH 17, AT DEPARTMENT. DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER CHAIRED MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS. SECRETARY VANCE WAS HOST AT LUNCH AT WHICH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM, CLARK CLIFFORD AND SENATOR GLENN WERE RANKING ATTENDEES. ALL DISCUSSION ON MONDAY WAS DEVOTED TO SOUTHWEST AND SOUTH ASIA (INCLUDING THE INDIAN OCEAN). EVENING FREE.

5. (U) TUESDAY, MARCH 18, ZHANG HAD BREAKFAST WITH SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, LUNCH WITH HOUSE

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE; CALLED ON NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR BREZINSKI AND ACDA DIRECTOR EARLE. DINNER WITH GENERAL SEIGNOUS (ACDA DIRECTOR RETIREDD) WHO HAD BEEN ZHANG'S INTERLOCUTOR DURING SECDEF BROWN'S VISIT.

6. (U) WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 - ZHANG CALLED ON THE VICE PRESIDENT. HE AND A PRIVATE MEETING, WITH THE SECRETARY, HAD A WORKING LUNCH WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, AND MET TWICE WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOK. DINNER AT CHINESE EMBASSY RANKING US. GUEST: DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER.

7. (U) THURSDAY, MARCH 20 - ZHANG CALLED ON STR AMBASSADOR ASKED FOR DISCUSSION OF TEXTILE ISSUE. THEN DROVE TO NEW YORK. ON MARCH 21 - HE ADDRESSED THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS. THEN LEFT SUNDAY FOR BEIJING VIA FRANCE.

8. (CLOD) ATMOSPHERE OF TALKS WAS ONE OF GREAT INFORMATIVITY, RELAXED PANOPLY, CORDIALITY, FRIENDLINESS. TALKS MARKED A NEW STAGE OF FRIENDLY, MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL CONSULTATION IN US/CHINA RELATIONS. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT OUR VIEWS HAD IMPACT ON THE CHINESE AND THEIRS INFLUENCED OUR PERCEPTIONS. WE INTEND TO CONTINUE SUCH CONSULTATIONS TWICE OR THREE A YEAR FROM NOW ON. SUBJECTS DISCUSSED INCLUDED AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, IRAN.

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INDIAN OCEAN, SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS, NEPAL ZONE OF PEACE, SOUTHEAST ASIA, KOREA, JAPAN, YUGOSLAVIA, CSCE, AS WELL AS ARMS CONTROL AND BILATERAL ISSUES. EXTRAORDINARY LEVEL OF PROTOCOL ACCORDED ZHANG BY U.S. CONTRIBUTED TO SUCCESSFUL DISCUSSIONS WHICH WERE, IN MANY RESPECTS, THE FIRST "NORMAL" DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE WITH THE CHINESE TO BE CONDUCTED IN WASHINGTON IN OVER 30 YEARS.

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22. (U) IN GENERAL, BOTH U.S. AND CHINESE WERE STRUCK BY WIDE AREAS OF CONVERGENCE IN OUR THINKING. FEW AREAS OF DIVERGENCE, WHICH MOSTLY RELATED TO TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS, MEANS NOT ENDS.

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